

Message Text

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10

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 DODE-00 PER-01 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MMS-01 A-01 ABF-01 OC-05 SP-02

CCO-00 USIA-06 MED-02 /062 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON/EA/EX:HWILLIAMS:JY

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

PER/CA/FS/EA:RNETHERCUT (DRAFT)

A/SY:MGARRETT (DRAFT)

EA/EX:EECHAMPAGNE (DRAFT)

DOD/ISA:LTC KING

----- 069957

R 160033Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 166856

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AMGT, APER

SUBJECT: MISSION STAFFING

REF: VIENTIANE 4761

1. IN GENERAL WE CONCUR WITH YOUR PROPOSALS CONTAINED
REFTEL FOR RESTRUCTURING MISSION TO MODEST SIZE AND WITH
TIMING OF CHANGES WHICH YOU PROPOSE STAFFING OF MISSION
AT LEVEL OF 22 AMERICANS IS ACCEPTABLE. WE UNDERSTAND
THAT RETURN OF SOME STAFF NOW AT UDORN TO ASSIST IN HEAVY
JOB OF REDUCING MISSION TO 22 LEVEL CONFIGURATION WILL BE
A TEMPORARY AUGMENTATION.

2. YOUR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE ADDRESSED BELOW:

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A. REFTEL, PARA 5B. POSITION OF ADMIN COUNSELOR HAS BEEN

RECLASSIFIED AND DOWNGRADED TO THE FSO-4 LEVEL.

B. PARA 5C, PER IS ACTING UPON POST RECOMMENDATION THAT FSO ROBERT MACCALLUM BE REASSIGNED AS POST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW.

C; PARA 5D, FSO ROBERT MYERS IS TO BE TRANSFERRED AND POLITICAL OFFICER POSITION HE NOW HOLDS TO BE ABOLISHED. SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW.

D. DEPARTMENT CANNOT AGREE TO EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL (REF 5A) THAT POLITICAL COUNSELOR TEARE BE DESIGNATED DCM. CHARGE FILLS DCM SLOT AND FOR STAFFING PURPOSES MUST CONTINUE TO HOLD THAT POSITION; WE HAVE NO OBJECTION IF YOU WISH TO DESIGNATE TEARE ACTING DCM;

E. CONCUR IN ABOLITION OF MEDICAL OFFICER POSITION (REFTEL 5F). O/MED AND DR. BERRY WILL BE INFORMED.

F. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH SY, WHO FEEL STRONGLY THAT RSO POSITION SHOULD NOT BE ABOLISHED, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING. RSO O'BRIEN WOULD REMAIN AT POST AND ASSUME DUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SECOND GSO IN ADDITION TO RSO FUNCTION. GSO RUSSELL MORROW WOULD BE TRANSFERRED. O'BRIEN STAYING ON IN GSO/SY CAPACITY, WOULD SATISFY SY'S FEELING THAT POST NEEDS AN EXPERIENCED SECURITY OFFICER AT THIS TIME. REQUEST YOUR URGENT RESPONSE TO THIS RECOMMENDATION.

G. PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH SECRETARIAL POSITION AND TRANSFER INCUMBENT IS APPROVED. PLEASE ADVISE BY PER CHANNEL MESSAGE POST'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON NAME, POSITION NUMBER AND TIMING. IF O'BRIEN REMAINS AT POST IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RETAIN MRS. O'BRIEN'S SERVICES AS SECRETARY AND RELEASE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY. PLEASE ADVISE (REFTEL 5G).

H. EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SEABEE ON TDY HAVE FALLEN THROUGH, AND WE ARE NOW SEEKING AN OFFICER WITH NECESSARY TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT.

I. ABOLITION OF ONE GSO POSITION (NOW FILLED BY JOHN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POWELL) IS APPROVED (REFTEL 5I).

J. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH YOUR VIEW THAT MSG DETACHMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHIN 22 LEVEL COMPLEMENT AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE MSG UNIT SHOULD BE ELIMINATED UNDER PRESENTLY FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, BOTH FOR GENUINE SECURITY REASONS AND FOR IMAGERY REASONS VIS-A-VIS THE

LAO. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AS
AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE A THREE-MAN "NIGHT WATCH" PER-
FORMING ONLY THE DUTIES OF CHAR FORCE SUPERVISION AND
NON-DUTY HOURS SECURITY. WE RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT THIS
IS LESS THAN FIVE-MAN "MINIMUM" MSG UNIT. REQUEST YOUR
VIEWS ON THIS.

H. SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW ON STAFFING OF DAO. INGERSOLL

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